

# THE TOMAHAWK.

"Truth before Favor."

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## The TOMAHAWK.

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THE TOMAHAWK  
WHITE EARTH, MINN.

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In The

TOMAHAWK.

BRINGS BEST RESULTS.

## THE NORTH DAKOTA CHIPPEWAS.

The Indian appropriation bill now pending before congress and entitled "An act making appropriations for the current contingent expenses of the Indian Department and for fulfilling treaty stipulations with various Indian tribes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1905," has a provision in it to ratify an agreement, with the Chippewa Indians living at Turtle Mountain and known as the "Turtle Mountain Band," made in 1892.

This agreement provides for the conveyance of all the right, title and interests claimed by those Indians to a certain tract of country in North Dakota, and for the allotment of land in severalty to the members of the band on the tract known as the Turtle Mountain Reservation in North Dakota.

The consideration which the Indians will receive for the land ceded is one million dollars to be paid either in cash or yearly installments, in such sums as the secretary of the interior may deem for the best interests of said tribe of Indians.

The act provides, however, that the secretary of the interior may expend the money by yearly installments, as the needs of the Indians require, in building, improving, and repairing the houses of such Indians, and for the maintenance of schools.

A majority of the Indians who are entitled to the benefits of the funds which congress proposes to appropriate for the so called Turtle Mountain band, removed to this reservation and properly belong to the one township of land, now occupied by a great many of them, which was set aside on this reservation in 1874.

When the treaty of 1863 with the Red Lake and Pembina bands was made, the Chippewas that were living at Turtle Mountain and North Dakota, generally, were known as the "Pembina Band" and as such the United States made the treaty with them, under which they received annuities for fourteen years, with the Red Lake band of Minnesota.

After the treaty of 1863 was made, some of the members of the Pembina band removed to Red Lake, where they now reside and the others, or a large majority of them, removed to this reservation. On the following year after their removal here a great many of them returned to Turtle Mountain, and it is these who ceded the rights of the Chippewas to the lands in North Dakota.

A great many refugee half breeds from Manitoba during the Reil rebellion, settled with the Indians at Turtle Mountain, and signed the treaty which made the necessary majority required by the government.

The Pembina Indians on this and the Red Lake Reservation, who are interested with the minority of their band at Turtle Mountain, were not consulted by either the commission which negotiated with the Turtle Mountain Chippewas or by the latter, when the agreement which congress may now ratify, was made.

Chief Weise of that portion of the Pembina band on this reservation, states that there are less than four hundred persons, now claiming as Turtle Mountain Chippewas, who are entitled to enrollment as beneficiaries of the cession under the so called Turtle Mountain agreement.

The Indian department at Wash-

ington, is familiar with the status of the Pembinas on this and the Red Lake reservation, and it is hoped that it will see that the Indians here get their share of the benefits which may accrue from the cession of their rights in North Dakota.

When these Pembinas left North Dakota to come to this reservation, it was distinctly understood by them that they would lose none of the interests to which they are entitled.

## WAIVES INDIAN RIGHTS.

Washington specials to some of our exchanges state that Commissioner Jones has waived the rights of the Chippewas to take allotments on the Mississippi, Winnebagoish and Leech Lake reservations, in order that the opening of these reservations to settlement may be expedited.

If this is true the commissioner has assumed more authority than the law gives him. He has no right to waive the rights of any Indian to take an allotment where the law gives him the right to take it. The Nelson Act gives the Chippewa the right to take allotments on the reservations where they are living while the removals provided for under the law are being effected.

Until the Indians have all been allotted lands in severalty, not one foot of land should be opened to settlement.

If the Indians should assert their rights and attempt to prevent the settlement of their reservations in their own way, and cause trouble the government will be responsible for it.

The Chippewas have lost almost everything by the wholesale legalized robbery of their pine lands, and now an attempt is going to be made to deprive them of their rights to allotments by opening their reservations before the conditions of the agreement under the Nelson Act are fulfilled.

## WHITE EARTH BILL REPORTED.

"The house committee on Indian affairs today favorably reported Mr. Steenerson's bill to increase the allotments of Indians on the White Earth reservation to 160 acres."—W. W. Jernane, in Minneapolis Journal.

For nearly twelve years the Indians on this reservation have been trying to have the government fulfill its agreements relative to the amount of land which the Rice commission promised them they would receive as allotments, in conformity with treaty stipulations. Under a ruling of the secretary of the interior it was held that allotments of not more than eighty acres could be given to the White Earth Mississippi Chippewas. Senator Nelson took the matter up in behalf of the Indians, and secured the passage of a bill twice by the senate, to allot the Indians here 160 acres each, but through the negligence of Congressman Eddy, the matter went by default in the house of representatives. When Mr. Steenerson took his seat in congress last fall he took immediate steps to get a bill through congress, and with the aid of Senator Clapp, it is almost an assured thing that this bill will become a law at this session.

It has been a good many winters since any member of the house has taken as deep an interest in an effort to secure the fulfillment of treaty promises as Mr. Steenerson, and if one of the predominating traits of Indians has not died among them by contact with civilization, he will have to live more than the allotted time given to man before they will forget their obligations to him.

## A BREEDER OF MONOPOLY.

It is a well know fact to any one conversant with the laws and rules regulating commerce with Indian tribes, that a license to trade was a feature deemed necessary at an early date in the history of this country.

This plan may have had its good sides, and perhaps was necessary under the then existing conditions. But today the conditions are changed; the social condition of a majority of the tribes of Indians throughout the country have so improved that scores of individuals are fitted to engage in commercial pursuits, and besides this, have abandoned their tribal relations and are citizens of the United States.

The system of licensing was inaugurated as a protection for the Indian, and to make the foreign white trader amenable to the United States for any breach of law, and was also a mutual protection as between the trader and his clientele.

Indians in time engaged in trade, but had to comply with the laws regulating commerce with Indian tribes. No harm followed this practice, but it is the history of reservations that, to gratify personal malice, licenses were refused to applicants on one pretext or another, though animated by petty spite.

The absurdity of licensing Indians became apparent and a law was passed, making it unnecessary for them to take out licenses to trade among their own people. Subsequently this law was amended so as to compel mixed-bloods to take out licenses to trade. Although vigorous protests have since been made against this unjust discrimination against them, by these mixed-bloods, since their status is the same as that of the full-bloods, the law still remains unchanged.

We believe the intelligence and the changed status of the Indians now demand a radical change of the law regulating trade with the Indians, and not only this but all the intercourse laws which apply to them should be obliterated from the United States statutes. The law regulating trade does not protect the Indians, but breeds monopoly and is an injury to them.

A mixed-blood Indian, with a small capital, is frequently unable to furnish the ten thousand dollar bond required by the law, and is thus compelled to abandon a commercial pursuit, or to trade under the license of a licensed trader, who frequently demands a big percentage for the privilege accorded.

Another condition which places a mixed-blood member of a reservation at a disadvantage is that a purchaser of a tract of inherited Indian land may engage thereon in any kind of business without restriction, while a mixed-blood who may be occupying an adjoining tract of tribal land, cannot do this without the necessary license to trade with Indians which is required by law.

Since Indians are made citizens by the general Allotment Act, let them enjoy in all respects the rights, privileges and immunities this citizenship gives and guarantees to them.

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## NO DIFFERENCE OF OPINION AMONG INDIANS.

"The Weekly Review" published at the government Indian school at Flandreau, S. D., in its issue of the 9th, inst, contains the following:

"It is stated that the Indians of the Agency are complaining because the white men are given positions such as assistant farmers etc., to the exclusion of competent Indians. It is probable that there is a difference of opinion as to what are competent Indian employees."

If there are any grounds for such differences of opinion, we would ask the editor of the Review what have the Indian industrial non-reservation schools, including the Flandreau school, been doing for ten or fifteen years past if they have not turned out enough "competent Indians" to fill the positions which the tribes want filled by their own people?

The reflections of the Review are obviously against the government schools for not giving the Indian children, who have been attending these schools, such training as the government pays the teachers to give them, namely: an industrial training.

If such a difference of opinion really exists as the Review suggests regarding any doubt about the existence of a sufficient number of "competent Indians" to fill the positions referred to, we can only add that many white employees that are foisted upon the Indians as employees, should not be filling the positions which they are holding since many of the Indians are more competent, according to the best judges, to fill these positions.

## The Indian Right And Wrong.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident: that ALL MEN are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these, are LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS"—Declaration of Independence July 4th, 1776.

## DETROIT'S CANDIDATE.

Miss Magdalen Wiecks has entered the Minneapolis Journal contest as a candidate to the St. Louis Exposition, and being desirous of giving her assistance to the TOMAHAWK will take subscription to the Minneapolis Journal until May 1st, in her behalf. For every yearly subscription paid in advance she will be entitled to one thousand votes; half yearly 200; three months 100; one month thirty-five.

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